

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on April 22, 2003. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, and claims 11-19 stand withdrawn pursuant to a Restriction Requirement raised by Examiner. Claims 1-10 remain in the present application. Applicant's counsel appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Koch during the telephonic interview conducted on June 20, 2003. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7 as discussed during the interview to clearly distinguish over the prior art of record. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rutledge et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,391,387. Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rutledge with the Anorad Brochure. Lastly, claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutledge in view of Ng, U.S. Patent No. 5,820,623. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to more sharply define the present invention over the prior art of record as discussed during the telephonic interview and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In particular, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to recite that the support member is mounted for linear movement toward and away from the substrate, and the liquid dispensing head is operatively connected to the support member and capable of linear movement relative thereto upon contact with the substrate.

During the telephonic interview, Applicant's counsel and Examiner discussed that each of the pending claims 1-10 is directed to a floating head liquid dispenser for dispensing liquid onto a substrate. The liquid dispensing system of the primary Rutledge et al. reference is a pivoting fluid dispenser, and is clearly not a floating head liquid dispenser as understood by those of ordinary skill in the art and as recited in each of pending claims 1-10. Notwithstanding this claimed distinction which Applicant respectfully submits distinguishes the present claims over the prior art of record, Applicant has further amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to recite structure and function of the claimed floating head liquid dispenser which is clearly not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

As discussed during the telephonic interview, the Rutledge et al. dispensing system includes a support and drive assembly (630) having a roller (694) which is moved in opposite linear directions as indicated by the arrows (632, 634) as shown in Fig. 19. The roller (694), in turn, is captured within a slot (616) of a cradle member (604). Movement of the roller (694) in the opposite directions

(632, 634) causes a lower portion of the dispensing gun (610) to pivot about the axis G-G (see Column 17, lines 20-34).

The support and drive assembly (630) of Rutledge et al. includes a sensor mechanism (674) and tape scale (672), which, in combination, comprise a sensor assembly (668). In operation, the sensor mechanism (674) determines the position of a moveable sensor bracket (670) relative to a stationary sensor mechanism (674) (see Column, 17, line 67-Column 18, line 4). The sensor assembly (668) detects the position of the sensor bracket (670) relative to the stationary sensor mechanism (674) and, thus, the dispensing system of Rutledge et al. is able to determine the relative position of the roller (694) and, accordingly, the direction and the degree of pivoting of the dispensing gun (614) (see Column 18, lines 30-34).

During the telephonic interview, Examiner referred to the structure illustrated in Fig. 17. However, this structure relates solely to a downstacker device (550) which moves a single closure member from the downstacker to a position directly overlying the chuck member (482). The liquid dispensing gun is located in the upper assembly (416) of Fig. 17, and the structure of the liquid dispensing gun is shown and described in connection with in Fig. 19 as a pivoting dispensing gun (610) (see Column 13, line 57-Column 15, line 48).

Applicant respectfully submits that Rutledge et al. taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest the

combination of elements recited in each of Independent claims 1 and 7. In particular, Rutledge et al. taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest a support member mounted for linear movement toward and away from the substrate as recited in each of Independent claims 1 and 7. Additionally, the dispensing gun (610) of Rutledge et al. is not capable of linear movement relative to the support and drive assembly (630) as claimed by Applicant. Rather, the dispensing gun (610) of Rutledge et al. is mounted to pivot about the axis G-G.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Rutledge et al. taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements recited in each of Independent claims 1 and 7 and the rejections should be withdrawn. Moreover, as claims 2-6 and 8-10 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact

the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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